WINCHESTER NEWS
A TRUSTED AND RELIABLE SOURCE OF LOCAL NEWS

Donate

DONATE | NEWS | SPORTS | EVENTS | FEATURES | OPINION | NEWSLETTER | CONTACT | ABOUT

2025 ELECTIONS

Paras Bhayani, Precinct 8

February 1, 2025 . 11:14 PM — 4 min read

Biographical questions

— How many years have you lived in Winchester?

— Please describe your professional background and education.

— What Winchester town positions (appointed or elected) have y
and for how long? —

Subscribe

— What volunteer roles have you done that made a difference in Winchester?
— Why should I vote for you?

I moved to Winchester five years ago with my wife and we live here with our two young daughters. We were drawn here by the Town's schools, natural beauty, and reputation as a close-knit community. I am excited to help strengthen the Town we intend to call home for decades to come.

I bring considerable public and private sector financial expertise to Winchester, along with a collaborative approach to problem-solving. I have substantial experience in corporate finance and business strategy, including as a private equity investor and corporate strategist at the world's largest asset manager and at a top-tier consulting firm. Before my private sector career, I spent several years in the public sector, including as the head of a $1.7bn operating and capital budget for the City of Chicago's transit authority, gaining substantial experience with operating budgets, labor agreements, pension finance, rating agencies, and municipal bond issuances, among other topics.

During my time in Winchester, I have been extensively involved in education issues as a founding member of the early literacy focused Winchester Literacy Initiative for Change, which is a parent-led group focused on strengthening Winchester Public Schools' early literacy curriculum. At the state level, I am a past board member of the Massachusetts Sierra Club; serve on the Massachusetts board of OneGoal; and have been involved in Massachusetts' Early College efforts at a policy and strategy level.

I received my undergraduate degree from Harvard College and MBA from Harvard Business School with Distinction.

Subscribe

What specific methods will you use to gather and represent your constituents' perspectives on issues that come before Town Meeting?

I support hosting precinct-level meetings with residents that are hosted by the 24 town meeting members in each precinct. Community-based sessions can serve as a key method for residents to communicate with Town meeting members, and for the members to communicate among themselves. E-newsletters and online surveys at both the precinct and Town level can be useful for determining the issues on residents' minds.

Transparency and communication are vital in representative government. What steps will you take to keep your constituents informed about Town Meeting decisions and to explain your voting rationale?

Engagement with citizens is a critical element of Town Meeting – and one of the real strengths of our form of government: our 192 Town Meeting members are direct links to our residents, a source of connection that can both provide input into decision-making and that can be used to communicate Town issues and decisions widely to Town residents.

I also believe the Town Meeting Members Association (TMMA) can be a powerful tool for members to get to know one another, both in person and through online forums. The latter can also serve as a means for the public to learn more about the activities of Town Meeting. Overall, the TMMA is a great addition to Winchester's "civic infrastructure" and I believe will deliver benefits in terms of the cohesion, effectiveness, and transparency of Town Meeting in the years ahead.

Town Meeting decides three major things: It sets the salaries for the elected officials, votes to appropriate money to run the town, and votes on the town's local statutes, which are called by-laws. How do y

Subscribe

evaluate and make decisions on budgetary allocations to ensure fiscal responsibility while meeting the town's needs?

Town Meeting plays a critical role in providing oversight, and final approval, on Winchester's budget. Our Town faces a challenging financial reality today, and we will need both carefully considered efficiencies and new revenue to sustainably fund the Town and Winchester Public Schools. Any plan will require careful craftsmanship to align on a package that works for all and that balances four aims:

· Investing in town services, both municipal and schools

· Tackling our substantial unmet capital needs

· Pursuing a revenue and cost savings package that minimizes to the extent possible the burden on taxpayers

· Preserving our town's fiscal strength, including our stellar credit ratings

As a Town Meeting member, I would encourage the town management to find efficiencies where possible, including areas where we can use off-the-shelf technology to automate processes, expand the use of strategic and joint purchasing to achieve better rates for large cost categories, and better utilize Town assets to generate income.

Winchester has been prudent in its management of free cash and its long-term liabilities, including pension and other post-employment benefits. I would advocate maintaining a strong free cash position while using some excess for one-time capital needs, and using pension savings beginning in 2027 to pay down other liabilities on a reasonable schedule.

Subscribe

Finally, the 2019 property tax override was designed to last four years, and it has lasted six years already. With inflation far above the Proposition 2½ cap over that period, we will likely need additional revenue to meet the needs of the Town. In considering any override tax package, I would advocate that we expand and improve the range of programs the Town offers to support seniors on fixed incomes. Better communication about the existence of these programs will help those who may have more difficulty absorbing any future property tax increases.

Contact: parasforwinchester.com or parasforwinchester@gmail.com.

Return to list of Town Meeting Candidates

Related

2025 ELECTIONS

Write-in votes, Winchester election results now final

Election 2025 is now over. The results from the March 22 townwide elections have been certified by the Town Clerk's office. Town Clerk MaryEllen Marshall released the final numbers March 27, with 17.3% of Winchester residents casting a vote in the election, or 2,951 votes, out of

NELL ESCOBAR COAKLEY | STAFF WRITER

NEWS

Newcomers win spots on Winchester Select Board, School Committee

It was the perfect Election Day — warm and sunny, with a steady stream of residents going into Winchester High School to cast their ballots. Preliminary results for the March 22 townwide electio residents voted on Saturday. votes cast, out of the town'

Subscribe

March 27, 2025

NELL ESCOBAR COAKLEY | STAFF WRITER

March 22, 2025

NEWS

Winchester Planning Board write-ins emerge ahead of Saturday election

Winchester voters head to the polls Saturday for municipal elections featuring contested races for Select Board and School Committee alongside an unexpected development — two write-in candidates vying for a Planning Board seat that initially have no contenders on the ballot. The March 22 election will take place at Winchester High

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 21, 2025

NEWS

Philip Frattaroli to be Winchester's 12th town moderator since 1915

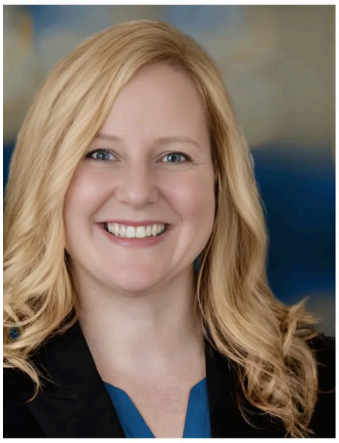
It's a foregone conclusion. Philip Frattaroli will be Winchester's next town moderator. Sure, the townwide election is just days away, but Frattaroli is running unopposed for the seat being vacated by Heather von Mering, who has been in the role since March 2020. "I decided to take it

NELL ESCOBAR COAKLEY | STAFF WRITER

March 20, 2025

Latest

PROMOTING HEALTH & EMPOWERMENT
HEAR FROM HIGH SCHOOL LEADERS
LEARN THROUGH INTERACTIVE GAMES
MEET NEW PEOPLE
FREE AND OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY
Middle school & high school students, teachers, parents, friends, community members - come and bring a friend!
FOR MORE INFORMATION:
EMAIL OFFICE@NFSJ.ORG
CALL 781-729-7100
NETWORK for SOCIAL JUSTICE
FROM WINCHESTER AND CHELSEA
GIRL UP
WOMEN IN STEM
GIRLS GOTTA RUN
MIND & MATTER



EVENTS

Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

March 4, 2026

NEWS

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

WILL DOWD | STAFF WRITER

March 4, 2026

FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

March 4, 2026

Subscribe

WINCHESTER NEWS
A TRUSTED AND RELIABLE SOURCE OF LOCAL NEWS

Subscribe to Winchester News

© 2026 Winchester News Group, Inc. Copying and sharing with permission for non-commercial use only.

Subscribe